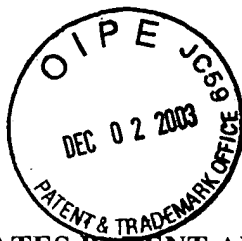


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PATENT APPLICATION  
Atty Docket: 15966-557 RCE (Cura-57 RCE)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS : Shimkets and Prayaga  
SERIAL NUMBER : 09/494,585 EXAMINER : Christine Saoud  
FILING DATE : January 31, 2000 ART UNIT : 1647  
FOR : NOVEL FIBROBLAST GROWTH FACTOR AND NUCLEIC ACIDS ENCODING SAME

**MAIL STOP**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313.1450

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Applicants file herewith a Response to the Office Action mailed June 2, 2003, in the above-referenced application. A response with the enclosed petition for a three-month extension is due December 2, 2003.

Applicants include with this filing the extension fees due under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3). In addition, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment of same, to Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Reference No. 15966-557 RCE (Cura-57 RCE).

**Claims amendment and Claims as pending** are provided on pages 2-4 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.